NEW FAN GLES

Number 30, January 1970. Monthly from Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060, for 10¢ a copy, 10 for $1, free copies for usable news items, real juicy unusable ones, cartoons or title logos. We also sell How to Survive Comics Fandom, a one-shot, at 20¢ a copy. Circulation this issue: 302...beginning to climb.

This issue is being held to 4 pages and no ad sheets to give us a month to catch up on a few other things. We hope to run a slew of reviews soon, though.

1970 is the year of the big lawsuit: The legal action by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster to regain copyright on Superman from DC. The case is too involved to go into here, but it centers around interpretation of copyright law which says creators have the primary right to renew expiring copyright on their creations. Siegel & Shuster contend that this supersedes the agreement by which they surrendered rights in Superman and that the character now reverts to them. At stake, obviously, is a multi-million dollar property. We'll do our best to keep you posted, hope those of you who see news items on the case will keep us posted.

MARVEL will publish two new two-character books, one of which will include a revised Black Widow. We don't know just which characters will be included, but Marvel does have in inventory an Inhumans story written and drawn by Jack Kirby, a Dr. Strange story (without costume) drawn by Don Heck in imitation of Steve Ditko, and a couple of Ka-Zar stories. Some of these might wind up in the new books.

Captain Marvel returns in March and Marvel's Conan bows in about May or June. MM Wally Wood has inked some mysteries for Marvel, may handle a character for them sometime soon. MM The Silver Surfer's sales have not been too good; one change likely to be made is to cut down on his sniveling about Shalla Bal. MM Johnny Craig pencilled an Iron Man which Archie Goodwin wrote and which the Comics Code Authority is using as propaganda to promote the comics. It involves Iron Man and Sub-Mariner vs. pollution. Craig has also done an HPLovecraft adaptation ("The Music of Erich Zann") for Marvel but turned down Marvel's offer to make him full-time penciller of Iron Man. With the time it takes to pencil as compared to the time it takes to ink, Craig feels he can make more money inking than pencilling. George Tuska has moved to DC, doing Challengers of the Unknown. MM Sub-Mariner soon battles Red Raven, who was, in 1940, a short-lived copy of Subby -- the lone human in a winged-people's world going off to humanity's world. MM The 100th issue of FF will feature a big battle with lots of villains. MM A pre-pro story by Roy Thomas, done with Sam Grainger even before Roy's Charlton scripts, will appear in Star-Studded Comics soon: "Warrior of Llarn." MM And Alter-Ego 10 is being bound.

You may have seen on a Marvel bullpen page that Stan Lee and Carmine Infantino lunched together. The reason: They are trying to start an Academy of Comic Book Arts & Sciences for professionals -- editors, atuhors, artists, letterers, colorists. A social group, not a union.

Arlington House, Publishers, 81 Centre Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10801 is taking advance orders on All in Color for a Dime, scheduled for April publication at $10.

OBITUARIES

Alex Blum (born in 1889) died in October 1969. Hames Ware, who had tried to find him for twelve years, received a letter from Blum's daughter, who said, "He died, after a 'successful' operation which, however, resulted in a cerebral hemorrhage which took him off quite quickly and (if one must look at it that way) mercifully. He was 80 years old and had not suffered greatly before his death." He had been retired for several years and spent his time painting, holding a few art classes, and living pleasantly. (His daughter, Audrey Bossert, and her husband worked for Eisner and Iger before World War II.) As Hames says, Alex Blum deserves an obituary the length of his work; he was an extraordinarily prolific artist during WWII and drew everything from Spy Smasher to Blue Beetle. Younger readers know him best, probably, for the quantity of work he did for Classics Illustrated comics; he drew more of them than any other artist. (You may also know him by the name "Tony Boon," one of his pseudonyms.) He was a major comic book cartoonist; it is sad to see the Golden Age men go.

Roy Barcroft (born in 1902) died November 29 at the age of 67, leaving behind his wife Vera and son Mike. He was one of the great heavies of the B Western, with over 200 film credits (opposite such stars as Bill Boyd, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and John Wayne). "Give me a good dirty-bearded part where I can drop my 'ing's and sleep on a jail cot," The Versatiles quotes him as saying. Serial fans will recall him as The Purple Monster.

3030303030303030303030303030303030303030303030303030303030

Knight's Dec 1969 issue has the article "Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex" by Larry Niven; it was originally done for fanzine publication, by the way, and members of CAPA-alpha read it some time back. The humorous piece is an essay discussing the possibilities of Superman's romantic (shall we say) involvement with Miss Lane. ## Fans who aspire to professional cartoon/gagwriting work might be interested in the monthly magazine Cartooning & Gagwriting, $1 per copy from Box 2611 Grand Central P. O., New York, New York 10017. (Just make checks out to the mag.) We gather this is of interest to the collector as well. ## The first story for the fan-produced Beware the Creeper Magazine has been scripted and sent to the artist (Klaus Janson). Tony Isabella wonders whether fandom would be willing to pay $1 per issue for a 52-page bimonthly magazine, no ads, on this. Comment? ## The LA Times says the first 25,000-book printing of the Buck Rogers book has sold out in less than a month. ## Mike Howell says the next Superboy annual is "Superboy's Red Letter Days"--and includes the day Ma and Pa Kent died, the day Superboy discovered Kryptonite, etc. Some stories will be retouched to bring them up to current storylines. And there is a backlog of supernatural tales by Howard Purcell and Jack Abel which will be called something like "True Tales of the Supernatural." That's DC...

Paul Leiffer was drafted out of grad school at the close of spring semester and has had seven different addresses since May. (Correspondents continue to use his old home address, 142 South Wrexham Court, Tonawanda, New York 14150.) He wangled a 3-day pass in November and flew to NY to marry his fiancee, Jani. She's with him now--"so Army life has become quite pleasant." He sends us a Chicago Sun-Times News Service story on Bill Mauldin--who has had a portfolio of cartoons reproduced by the Illinois Division of the American Civil Liberties Union to commemorate the 178th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. Mauldin says, "I've never been an advocate of the common man. I've been an advocate of the uncommon man." ## Morrie Turner (creator of Wee Pals) has won three honors for his strip: Anti-Defamation League's Society of Fellows, De Molay Consistory #1, Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masons of Philadelphia (whew!), and Bnai Brith Advisory Board all honored his work (2 approving citations and one "Distinguished Citizens Award"). ## A light fantasy, Cut of Their Minds (Clifford Simak, Putnam, $4.95), postulates the power of combined human thought is enough to create. I.e., if enough people believe in the devil, he will materialize. Dagwood, Pluto, and Dumbo roam "a once happy netherworld now threatened with a population explosion." ## Chicago Sun-Times News Service has an article on the New Relevance of DC superheroes (Batman, Vigilante). Batman's change, says Infantino, was caused by the TV campiness. "People began to laugh at him."

DEPT. OF NF ERROR — In NF#27 (Oct), we ran a report that Stan Lee had signed Al Williamson's name to a story that Al had drawn but not signed his name to. We have since heard from both that this is not true, that Stan never did any such thing. We and our source of the report all apologize to Stan and Al for the mistake --and we all thank both for taking the time to correct it.

MORE — Todd Freeman, Jr. updates the report we ran from Tony Isabella that Todd had enlisted after being drafted. Seems Todd did pass the exam and physical for the Air Force--but when he went to Ashland, Kentucky, he decided to complete his education. He entered high school and is now a senior--in Army ROTC, but not the Army. His new address: 3149 Central Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky 41101.

OTDB /TCR — The Comic Reader (sometimes known as On the Drawing Board) #76 is out from Mark Hanerfeld (Academy, GPO Box 449, Flushing, New York 11352, 20¢ a copy ordered singly, 15¢ @ if ordered in greater quantities). Mark has mailed the 1969 Alley Awards Ballot with this issue; copies may be had by non-subscribers for a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Mark has much improved the ballot this year; in 1968's ballot there were 34 categories, whereas in 1969's there are 27. Deadline for mailing your ballot is January 31--so get your ballot and vote NOW. ## Other news: Aurora has discontinued all comic book/strip models except a new Archie car kit. Tower publishing company has gone out of the comic book publishing business. Gary Friedrich fans will be happy to know that he has returned to New York and will once more script Sgt Fury. Yellowjacket & Wasp will depart the Avengers--replaced by Quicksilver (new costume) and The Scarlet Witch (altered powers). Marvel will soon begin carrying two ½-page ads per issue (reducing story page number to 19)--while DC is dropping ½ and 2/3 pages. Challengers of the Unknown #74 will carry its first Deadman story--coming on sale between installments 2 and 3 of the Aquaman Deadman story. Action #400 and Adventure #400 and World's Finest #200 are almost here; each of these particular issues will feature a story involving "all of the major characters that have appeared in that magazine since its first issue." (Now that sounds like a bunch of collectors' items!) Sheldon Mayer's Three Mouseketeers will soon be reprinted by DC (edited by Giordano--odd); keep an eye out, Sugar & Spike fans! For tons more news, send Mark your money; keep TCR going...

A TON OF NEWS FROM MIKE BARRIER — A plethora of articles on Buck Rogers (sparked by the Chelsea House/Random House $12.50 The Collected Works of Buck Rogers in the 25th Century) has begun to appear; Mike sends one (NYTimes News Service), and others among you have sent more... ## Hollywood Reporter for Dec 4 predicted an "explosion" of animated features/featurettes on prime time TV--resulting in an animation boom greater than 1961's. The 1970 cartoon lineups include: 4 new specials (including Charley Brown) from Bill Melendez-Lee Mendelson; continuation of partly-animated My World and Welcome to It; Bing Crosby's March special Goldilocks plus another adult animation special from DePatie-Freleng; Filmation will repeat Archie and His New Pals and add a new Archie special and an untitled animated musical; UPA's Uncle Sam Magoo will be aired Feb 19 and they also will have Mr Magoo's Christmas Carol; Warner's has a 1970 prime-time Christmas special, and a musical and new Fat Albert cartoon are coming up. ## Lee Turner (producer of Captain Easy for 26 years) retired in November; his already-completed strips will run through mid-Jan when Bill Crooks (art) and Jim Lawrence (script) will take over all work; both have worked on the strip in the past. ## The Mexican-American Antidefamation Committee is filing a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission "against the negative stereotype of the Mexican-American presented by the Frito-Lay Company in its Frito Bandito commercials." ## The Los Angeles Times Nov 23 ran a full-page piece on Walt Lantz, the oldest active producer of movie cartoons. He says he has never made a feature and never will. He says he is the only one left with his own business (financing, producing) and it takes him 7 years to recoup on an investment. Woody Woodpecker will be back next year (1970?) on TV. Lantz turns out 13 theatrical cartoons a year--7 with WW, others with Chilly Willy and the Charlie Bearys. ## UPI has a story on a new paperback in Italy. Titled Poema a Fumetti ("comic strip poem"), it is "based loosely on the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice" and has cartoons of naked women reciting poetry ("slangy, saucy poems....bold cartoons") by Dino Buzzati. $4.80.

INFLATION: Howard Rogofsky has the first 20 issues of Captain George's Comic World (our candidate for an Alley Award) at prices ranging from $5 to $20 (for a Frazetta issue), for a grand total of $142. All of those are in print at 10 for $3 or $6 for the lot (if you send $9 you'll get the first 30 issues). The choice is to send $6 to George at 594 Markham St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, or $142 to Rogofsky. Really, Howard, that isn't even funny. Don't pass them up, buy from George. Fantastic stuff, not available by the single issue. Unless, of course, you want to pay $5 for a 30¢ item...

Craig Yoe is marrying his Janet Jan. 15 and both are hunting jobs. They will be living at 717 W. Exchange, Akron, Ohio 44313. Our warmest congratulations, both.

Gardner Fox once told Bob Latona that the original name of Dr. Fate (as submitted to More Fun) was Dr. Doom. Now, 20 years later, in Italy, (Bob tells us) Marvel's Dr. Doom is being translated as Dr. Fate. ## The statue dedicated in Barcelona to Disney is of 4 gazelles. As Latona says, "a nice job but not particularly evocative of Disney." Bob is working on an article on the comics on assignment for Britain's Queen magazine, a very slick, class-conscious Harper's Bazaar. ## "Sugar, Sugar" by the Archies was "Record of the Year," according to Billboard, Cash Box and Record World -- never underestimate the commercial power of bubblegum music. ## NYTimes Mag for Dec 21 had a 2-page spread advertising "Superman's suit was made with Klopman fabric," with the display of a cartoon Supie standing by a tailor. ## Check Gahan Wilson's story "M-1" in the Feb 70 Fantasy & Science Fiction -- we can't discuss it without giving it away, but it's a fine, funny story. ## John Cullen Murphy ("Big Ben Bolt") is now working for Mad (see back cover of next issue) and has a forthcoming continuity on S. Agnew -- he does beautiful work (Murphy, that is, NOT Agnew). And Nelson Bridwell will be represented in Mad with "...A Dog Named Lassie..." taking off on "A Boy Named Sue," and Basil Wolverton soon makes his regular-every-six-years appearance with more Motor Maniacs.

EC FANS: The Jerry De Fuccio story in the current Our Fighting Forces is of special interest, not just because Jerry wrote it and John Severin drew it.

Bob (Batman) Kane had a display of art in a New York gallery a while back and the NYNews (Sunday 11 Jan 70) ran a couple of pics. Not too inspiring, but he sure signs his name big. B&R are included, of course. # Charlie Brown & Charlie Schulz by Schulz & Lee Mendelsohn is a biography/autobiography coming in May from World at $7.95. # Jim Berry (Berry's World) is moving to Washington from a Cleveland suburb to addpolitical satire writing to his output. # Mark Trail's Hunting Tips (Essandess Paperback, $1) contains Ed Dodd's stiff people and beautiful animal drawings designed to make the trigger finger itch. # Sergio Aragones addressed the Los Angeles Comiclub a while ago and gave a long and informative and hilarious talk, including a simulated crying spell when Bat Lash was mentioned, according to Tim Murphy. Sergio's Mad About Mad will be the 43d or 44th Mad paperback. Current Mad book is Al Jaffee's Mad Book of Magic and Other Dirty Tricks (Signet, 60¢). # The Harlan Ellison/Neal Adams/Frank Frazetta story is in Creepy 32.

NEWFANGLES 30 -- Your sub ends with #t?.

D & M Thompson
8786 Hendricks Rd.
Mentor, Ohio 44060 U.S.A.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL

MICHAEL WARD
BOX 45
MOUNTAIN VIEW
CALIFORNIA
94040